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283-

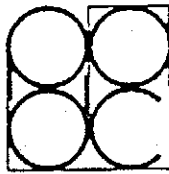
Ferree Building (Boston Buffet Lunch,
Big Flipper, Golden Fry)
417 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

HABS No. DC-521

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127



PENNSYLVANIA
AVENUE
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

425 12TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

GENERAL CONSULTANTS

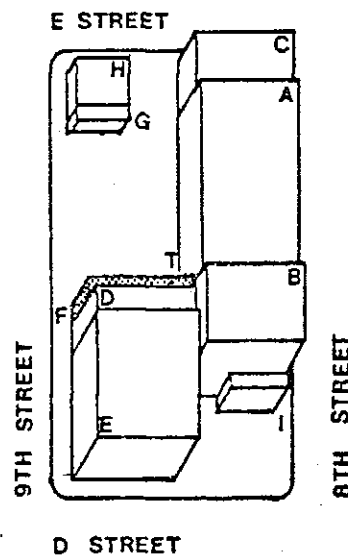
ANDERSON NOTTER/MARIANI
GENERAL PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
DEVROUX & PURNELL
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS
DAVID McLAREN HART & ASSOCIATES
PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
MONK DUNSTONE ASSOCIATES
COST ESTIMATING CONSULTANT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

BUILDING DOCUMENTATION

HABS
DC,
WASH.,
283-

Ferree Building (Boston Buffet
Lunch, Big Flipper, Golden Fry)
417 Ninth Street, NW
Lot 803



GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This commercial structure occupies a rectangular lot seventeen feet wide by one hundred feet deep on Ninth Street. It shares a party wall with a four-story building to the south while a parking facility separates it from a merchandizing store to the north; directly opposite is the FBI Building. The building has a height of three stories at the street, stepping back to two at its central portion, then to one at the rear.

The 1895 row structure is brick-faced, with high Victorian Italianate details expressed on the upper two floors of its three-story, two bay main elevation. Modifications to the facade occurred in 1914 with the inclusion of stone and brick facing apparently on the ground level. In 1923 a bay window was added on the building line. The current alteration to the storefront consists of aluminum-framed plate glass, on a plinth clad in ceramic tile and carpet meshing.

Interior conversion of the first floor restaurant and entertainment area, extending approximately one half the full depth, has fully incorporated modern material and facilities: white wood-grained paneling, indoor/outdoor carpeting, suspended acoustical tile ceiling, and fluorescent lighting. At the rear, multiple large and small rooms provide storage and bathroom facilities. Little of the initial finishes are discernible, although some evidence of original wood panel and ceramic and metal tile remains. Three iron-braced skylights, a later addition, provide illumination, (Building Permit No. 5122, 3-21-1910). The upper two stories, while not presently accessible, were once reached by stairs to the rear.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The permit for original construction defines the building as a "store and tenement", and later expands to describe it as a "store and dwelling of 6". It was built in 1895-1896, apparently by two separate contractors, G.R. Pohl and Albert Smith, (Building Permit No. 925, 12-21-1895).

The use of the building as a food-service establishment dates from at least 1917, when it was Carry's Ice Cream Parlor, (Building Permit 750, 9-12-1917).

Although the Ninth Street Romano-Tuscan facade has undergone major storefront alteration, and is enjoined on the left to a more elaborate ornamental Victorian-Italianate building, it retains an architectural integrity and ornamental vitality undiminished at second

and third levels. There, the fine, simply-articulated architectural handling and decorative detailing of fenestration, pilaster, moulding and cornice show appropriate placement. All are fully unified with overall proportional and scalar terms. A subtle elegance of form through clarity and order of design results.

The real and stylistic isolation of this building and its adjacent neighbor to the south has removed them from the traditional environment which they once enriched. Nevertheless, as a pair they still present a strength of architectural character that elevates the quality of the surrounding streetscape.

SIGNIFICANT FEATURE

Facade: The facade currently appears as a modern storefront that acts as a base to the upper two stories of the original architectural scheme. A fine integration of the original Italianate detailing is discerned on the two upper levels; harmony and balance are distinctly established through the symmetry of the giant pilaster orders, the supporting twin arches and through the classical cornice.

The projecting storefront consists of a show window supported below by plinths clad in carpet, and topped by a wooden fascia above. A recessed entry-way, offset to the left, is surrounded by squares of ceramic tile. A plastic sign sits atop the entire storefront organization; it is backed by aluminum planks which attach to the building wall. These elements combine to partially conceal twin-arched entries - round-headed, with simple wood molded frames still in place, perhaps original or part of the 1914 alterations.

On the upper two floors of the facade, the original architectural configuration remains with meager deterioration.

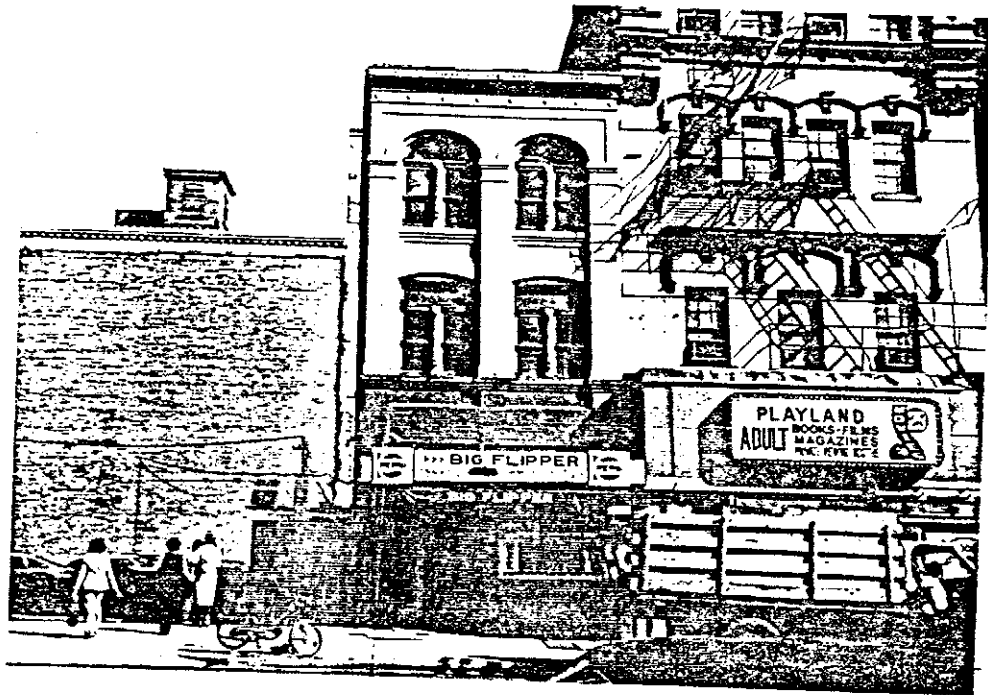
Three brick pilasters make a sweeping gesture upon the upper levels, commencing from the second story sill and rising to the springline of the third story elliptical arches which they support. The un-fluted pilasters are simply expressed. They rest on a projecting stone base. Their capitals consist simply of a corbelled stone course (also acting as an impost course), resting on another corbelled course, but of brick. Directly under is a soldier course flush with the pilaster plane.

Recessed within each bay, window openings are arched segmentally at the second story and elliptically at the third. Each of these carries two double-hung one-over-one wood sash separated by a spiraling colonnette acting as a mullion. Spanning the width of the twin windows on the second floor lies a transom lite. A wood camber

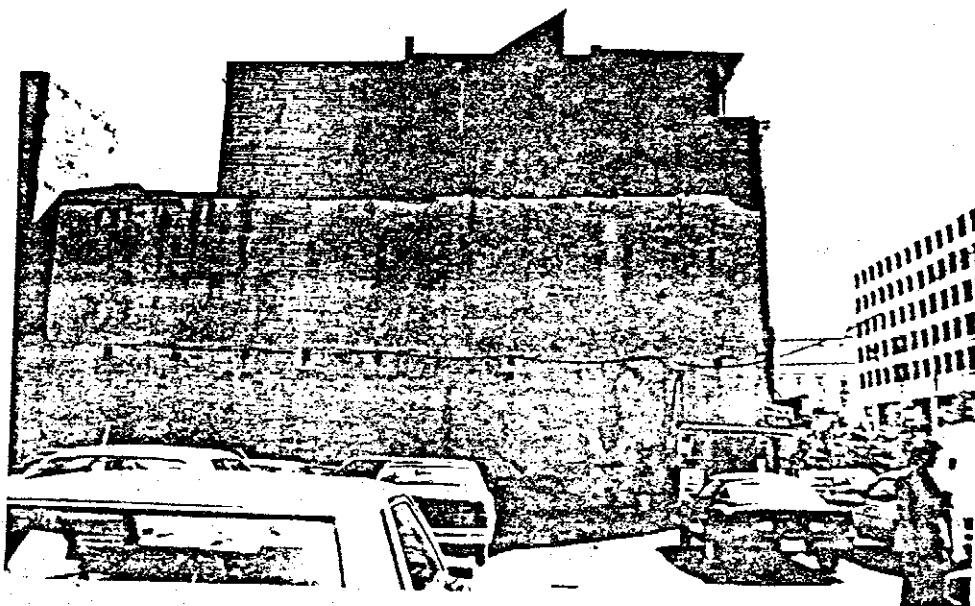
piece above the transom carries some Eastlake - inspired floral cut-out. At the third floor, a similar arrangement is repeated, except that the transom lite becomes a wood-framed fan lite that fills the tympanum of the elliptical arch completely. The spandrel panels between second and third-floor windows feature three corbelled courses under the sills of the upper story.

The facade is ultimately capped by a full entablature: the frieze is embellished with eight haut-relief paterae, repetitive in design and evenly dispersed; the tall metal cornice features a prominent scotia and contains a repetitive anthemion pattern, densely articulated. The fascia of the corona is embellished with a rich floral guilloche.

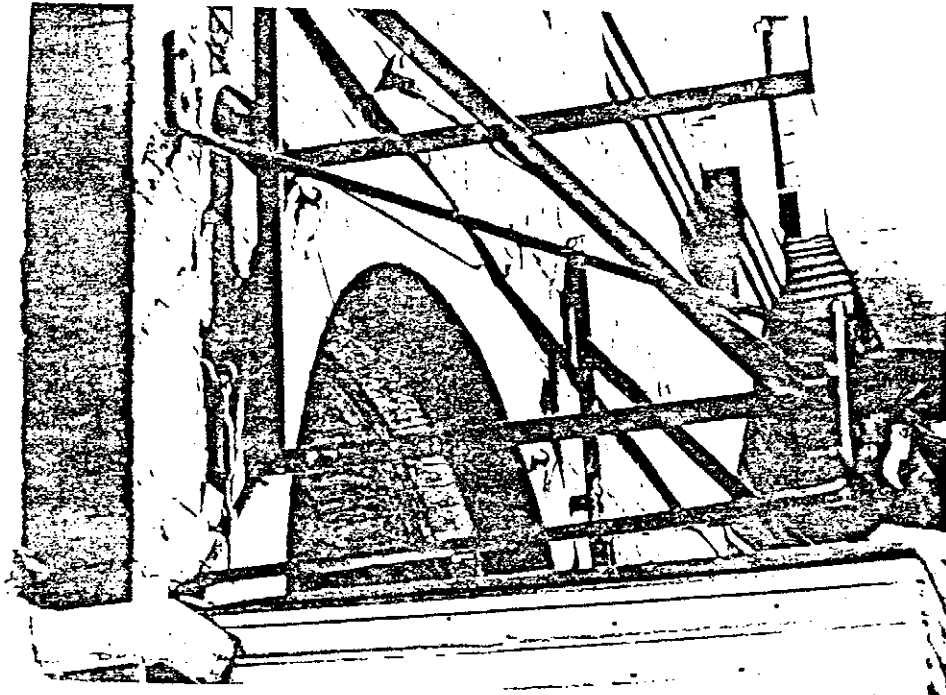
November 1980



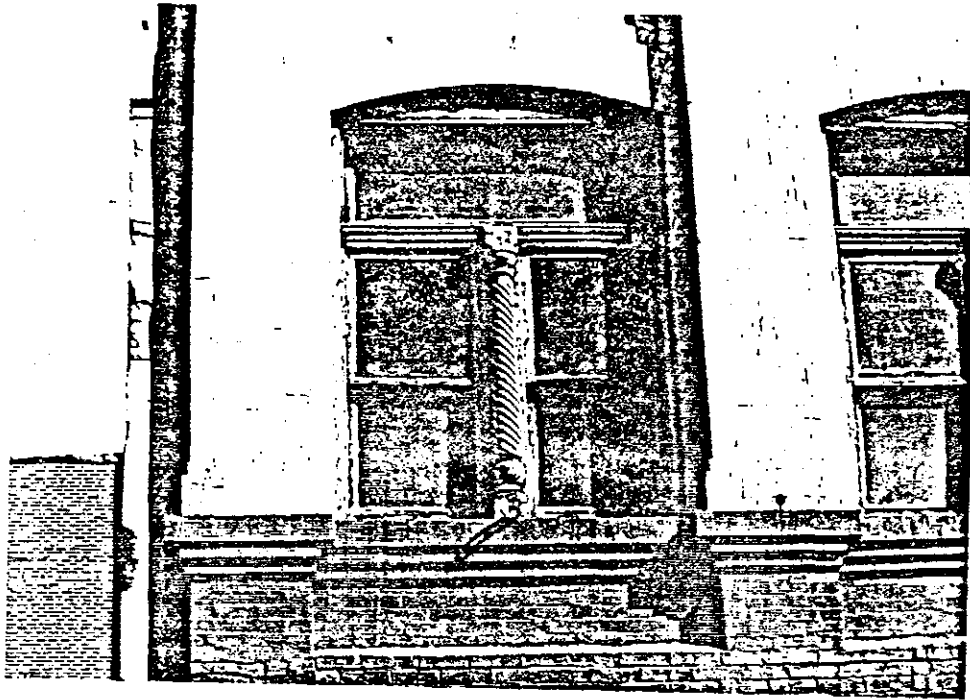
NINTH STREET FACADE (WEST)



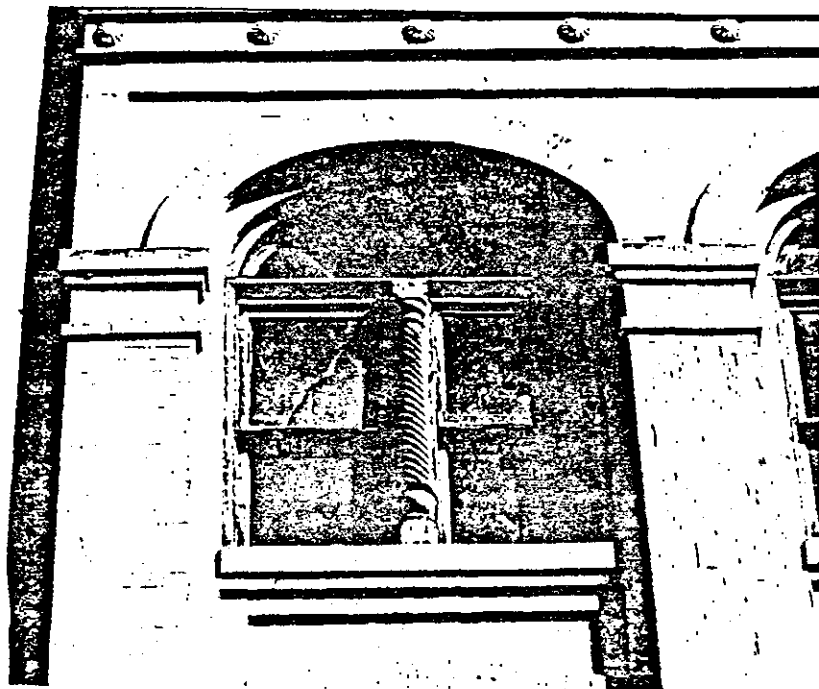
NORTH ELEVATION



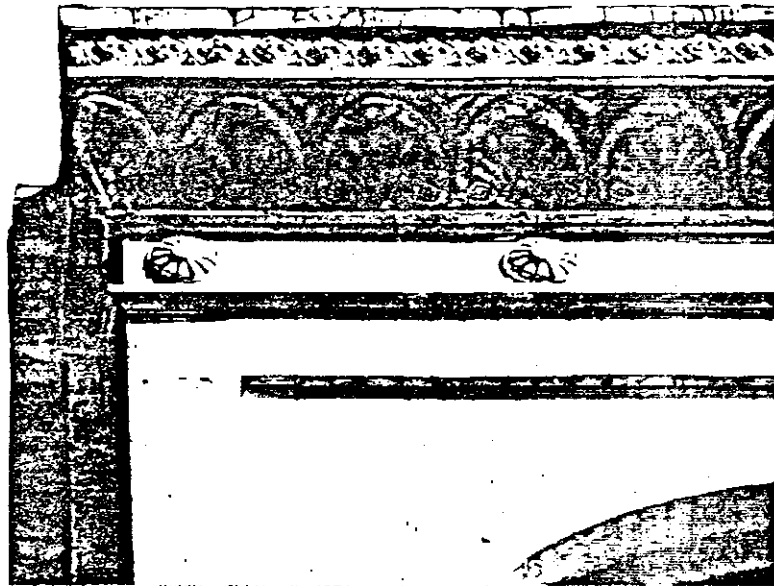
NINTH STREET FACADE: DETAIL OF STREET-LEVEL OPENING



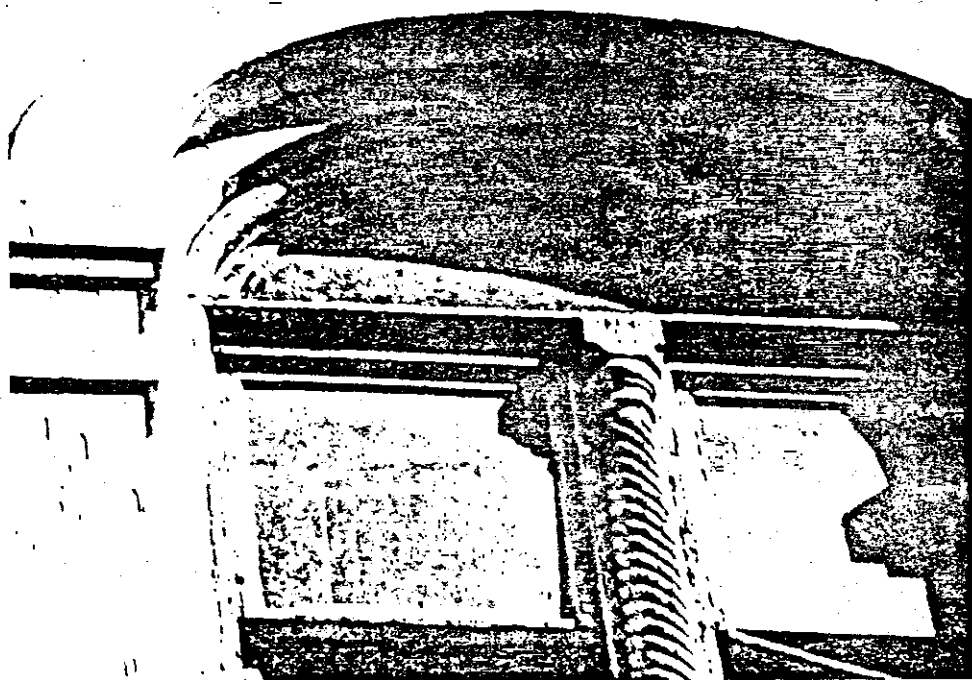
NINTH STREET FACADE: DETAIL OF SECOND FLOOR WINDOWS



NINTH STREET FACADE: DETAIL OF THIRD FLOOR WINDOWS



NINTH STREET FACADE: DETAIL OF CORNICE AT ROOF PARAPET



NINTH STREET FACADE: DETAIL OF THIRD FLOOR WINDOW MULLION

Lot 6 Central (Sublot 803)
417 9th Street

The central property of Lot 6 was a slender rectangular area, having a 17'-4-1/2" frontage on 9th Street and approximately 35' depth. The depth was extended to 50' by 1895 (Building Permit #925, 12/21/1895). Until 1878-1879, no tax assessment listings were recorded; however, this does not pre-empt residencies prior to this date.

1875

1875.....Michael Briel, confectioner, was listed as tenant.

1878/79

and
1883/84...Elizabeth R. Utermehle was assessed \$3,913.00 for the lot.

1893/94

and
1899/
1900.....The assessment had risen considerably, to \$5,649.00, with \$1,500.00 in improvements. The owner was unchanged.

1895.....The building permit granted the construction of one 3 story building 17'-4-1/2" x 60' to be used as a store and dwelling for six. Estimated value: \$3,600.00. Owner: Mrs. E.R. Ferree. Contractor: Albert Smith.

1902

to
1908.....A tailor, B. Schmulowitz, had occupied 417 9th Street according to the City Directories.

1910.....A February 24 permit (#4624) allowed the erection of a sign on the balcony. Material: Wood with iron braces. Size: 2'-6" x 18'. Projection: 3'. Owner: J.S.P. Green. Painter: Solomon Lewis & Son.

Building Permit #5122, March 21, was issued to Milton Tenney. The permit states "to put in galvanized iron sky-light and change 2 window frames" on the three-story brick building at 417 9th Street. Contractor: George Henderson.

1914.....Building Permit #5614, June 29, 1914: Permission to enclose sidewalk. Owner: John Lynch. Contractor: A.T. Fisher. Further alterations included removal of show windows, put in a flat roof and make minor

repairs. Replace front with stone and brick, install a window in rear part of cellar, install new plumbing. Cost: \$1,395.00.

1917.....Building Permit #750, September 12, to Albert Carry: Permission to erect one sign. Size: 3' x 8'. Projection: 3' from building line "Carry's Ice Cream".

1919.....Building Permit #1388, September 12, to Moore's Theater Corporation: Permission to install one 2 HP motor. Cost: \$500.00.

1922.....Building Permit #8952, May 27 to Christos Formant, lessee: Permission to erect three signs. Material: Iron. Size: 21' x 4'. Purpose of building: Restaurant. Formant was listed in the City Directories, 1922 to 1933.

Another sign was erected of metal and iron, 2' x 46", flat against the wall. (Building Permit #3932, October 18, 1922.)

1923.....An August 25 Building Permit (#1683) issued to Elsa P. Humes: To construct one bay window on the building line. Size: 8' x 3'. Cost: \$350.00.

1935.....Building Permit #179,332 to Boston Buffet Lunch, Inc.: Permission to build new stairs on second floor to toilet. Cost: \$100.00.

1938.....A June 22 Building Permit (#214,041) to P. Baum, store owner. The permit indicated the building of a one story brick addition to the store. No. of bricks: 4,000. Cost: \$1,500.00

1941.....Building Permit #242,802, April 23 under the name of the Boston Buffet Lunch, Inc. (restaurant), with B.L. Frishman Co. as contractor: Permission to recover present cap of show windows with metal reset, and cover base and glass of show window. Cost: \$75.00.

1947.....Building Permit #299,907, October 10 to Formant Christos: Permission to replace existing wood floor with a concrete floor. Cost: \$400.00. Architect: B.L. Frishman. Contractor: Fesler.

1981.....The structures first floor is used as a game room and restaurant, "The Big Flipper". Although in use, the upper two stories are not accessible.

SOURCES

Baist Real Estate Atlas

Bastert and Enthoffer Plat Maps

Boyd's City Directories

District of Columbia Building Permits

District of Columbia General Assessment Records

District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds

District of Columbia Surveyor's Office Records

District of Columbia Tax Records

Hopkins Real Estate Atlas

Polk's City Directories

Property Map for Downtown Urban Renewal Area for District of Columbia Redevelopment
Land Agency

Sanborn Insurance Map

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FERREE BUILDING
HABS No. DC-521
(Page 12)

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Washington, D.C.	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE <i>(INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)</i> Ferree Building (original owner) Source: DONT TEAR IT DOWN SURVEY		HABS NO. DC-521
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Boston Buffet Lunch (1935-1971), Big Flipper, Golden Fry		
COMPLETE ADDRESS <i>(DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)</i> 417 9th Street, N.W.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION <i>(INCLUDE SOURCE)</i> 1895 (building permit)	ARCHITECT(S) <i>(INCLUDE SOURCE)</i> none known (if any)	
SIGNIFICANCE <i>(ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)</i> The building's facade is largely intact and an interesting example of late 19th century architecture showing lingering Richardsonian influence in arched bays and academic revival influence. First floor retail, upper stories tenants.		
STYLE <i>(IF APPROPRIATE)</i> vaguely Richardsonian in terms of organization of facade, with hints of Classical or Renaissance Revival as reflected in entablature details.		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION <i>(INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)</i> brick		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE <i>(SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)</i> rectangular, seventeen feet wide, one hundred feet deep, stepping back from three to two, then to one story at rear.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Two bays organized by arches at first and third floors. The window lites are separated vertically by spiral colonettes and the 2nd floor window tympana have incised decoration. Entablature is most interesting.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE <i>(DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)</i> Although second floor walls, ceiling, and floor have been demolished, in part, for ductwork, a corner fireplace, bullseye moulding and part of a grille remain. (The third floor is inaccessible because of pigeons).		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Interior changes are mid to late 20th century. First floor exterior alterations started in 1914, with the major one being in 1923 when the window was added. The signage changed with each tenant. Rear alterations are early 20th century.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE poor, vacant		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE None of the restaurant ventilating equipment seemed old or of importance. Restaurant has no importance, beyond pressed metal ceiling above dropped ceiling.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION <i>(INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)</i> PADC SURVEY (Nov. 1980) by Anderson Notter/Mariani and David McLaren Hart & Associates		
DONT TEAR IT DOWN SURVEY (April 1980) by Barbara Fallin, Sally Wages, & L. Sobel		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Bill Lebovich, consultant to Square 407 Ltd. Partnership	DATE May 31, 1989	